

# RYAN RETURNS SUNDAY

Preview Begins  
On Page 8



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# BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

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A newspaper devoted exclusively  
to the Chicago Bears and the NFL  
Vol. 11, No. 7 September 15, 1986

## On the cover...

Quarterback Jim McMahon returned to action Sunday against the Browns, leading Chicago to a 41-31 win before leaving the game with a bruised shoulder. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



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### MEMBER

Professional Football Publications Assoc.

### PUBLISHER

Doug Buffone

### GENERAL MANAGER

John Weishar

### MANAGING EDITOR

Michael Polzin

### ADVERTISING SALES

Cathy Hanson  
112 Market Street  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
(608) 837-5161

Chicago Bear Report Advertising Agency  
500 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 2000  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312/787-6955  
Frederick Woods, President

### NATIONAL ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVES

R.J.R. Media, Inc.  
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Richard L. Royle, President  
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Editorial offices at 333 Capri Terrace, 4-B, Wheeling, IL 60090, telephone 312/459-9541.

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## Commentary



By  
Doug  
Buffone



# Bear Bait Catches First Win

The Chicago Bears went fishing and Bear Bait caught its first win of the year.

And with that, Chicago has started its season on the right track. It doesn't matter that much how you play that first game, just so you get that first win under your belt.

The good thing about the Bears' 41-31 win over the Browns Sunday was that they got big plays and good performances from every segment of the team. That was the key to the Bears' success last season and it will be the key again this season.

The Bear defense wasn't creating the turnovers in the preseason like it had last year. But on Sunday it came up with that big interception and touchdown run by Wilber Marshall. Don't forget to credit Mike Singletary for starting the play by hitting Bernie Kosar's arm as he threw the pass.

Two other big plays were turned in by Matt Suhey. He proved how valuable he can be to the Bears when he made that long run on a catch from Jim McMahon to set up a touchdown.

And what Suhey can't do with speed he makes up for with power. His nine-yard touchdown run in which he ran over two Brown defenders was nothing short of spectacular.

And talk about picking up a team when its down. Dennis Gentry's 91-yard kickoff return for a touchdown really ignited the Bears and might have been the key to the

game.

What can you say about Walter Payton? After 10 years in the league, he can still leave a defender wondering how his feet got tripped up. His 113 yards rushing was the consistency the Bears needed.

Mike Tomczak came through after McMahon got hurt and provided the depth at quarterback Chicago was looking for. Whether Tomczak or Steve Fuller is backing up for McMahon, the Bears can be confident in their quarterback.

The defense got hurt on three blitzes, but Marshall's interception also came on a blitz. When the blitz didn't work, it was because the coverage wasn't there. If Cleveland's receivers would have been covered tighter, Kosar would have been on the ground a lot more.

McMahon was a little rusty in the game, but the talent is there. If he can come back from this latest shoulder injury, his timing will be there without too much difficulty.

The Bears won Sunday's game the way they won last year. And for the first time out they didn't look like a bunch of plumbbers.

The Bears have to get into a groove. If they can, another 19 games like that should be the result.

Doug's picks for the second week of the season, along with his results from last week, are on page 11.



Walter Payton gained 113 yards Sunday and scored two touchdowns in the Bears' opening day win over Cleveland. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



# A Bit Unorthodox, But Bears Win Opener

By Michael Polzin  
Managing Editor

## Outrageousness?

No, just a lot of weirdness in the Bears' opening game 41-31 win over the Cleveland Browns Sunday at Soldier Field.

The game's first quarter had enough odd plays in it to fill any bloopers segment of a television sportscast.

Take, for instance, the Bears' third offensive play of the season. Center Jay Hilgenberg snapped the ball when quarterback Jim McMahon wasn't expecting it, and the ball went from the line of scrimmage, the Bears' 28-yard line, all the way to the end zone. Then, the television replays told officials, Cleveland's Al Gross recovered the ball for a touchdown and a 7-0 lead for the Browns.

You have to wonder if the call would have gone in the Bears' favor if CBS, not NBC, was televising the game.

## Hilgenberg forgets snap count

"The snap count was on four and Jay snapped it on one," said Bears coach Mike Ditka. "Jim's not ready for the ball. It's a mistake and what are you going to do? There's no point in saying anything."

So now what do the Bears, apparently in shock by the Browns' score, do in return?

Simple. Have Dennis Gentry make Ditka look like a sage by returning the kickoff 91 yards to tie the score. It was Gentry's second straight regular season game in which he's returned a kickoff for a touchdown. He returned one in 1985 against Detroit in the last game of the season.

"Things opened up real well and I got some great blocking from Thomas Sanders and Shaun Gayle and broke away," Gentry said. "I was thinking field position for the offense. That's the key to the special teams."

## Weird plays not over yet

The first quarter wasn't over yet, so there was time for one more oddity to happen.

Mike Singletary and Wilber Marshall teamed up for this one. On first and 10 from the Browns' 34-yard line, Cleveland quarterback Bernie Kosar dropped back to pass.

When he started to throw a screen pass, Singletary came rushing and hit the ball as Kosar threw it. The ball floated to Marshall, who made a great one-handed, back-bending catch and went untouched to the end zone, giving Chicago a 21-7 lead.

"I hit the ball, not his arm," Singletary said. "It was a blitz and William Perry was coming from the other side, so it was wide open up the middle."

## Marshall waits for ball to come down

"I had the back on the play," Marshall said. "I was just wondering when in the world this thing is going to come down. I just tried to bring it in. After that, I just said no one on the field is going to catch me."

The Bears scored a semi-normal touchdown, with some help from the Browns, after a punt by the Browns gave Chicago the ball at the Cleveland 43-yard line.

On first down McMahon completed a pass to Matt Suhey for nine yards. On the play Cleveland's Eddie Johnson was called for roughing the passer, a 15-yard penalty giving the Bears the ball on the 18-yard line.

An off-sides penalty against the Browns moved the ball to the 13, and three running plays put the Bears at the two.

Perry and Steve McMichael entered the game, lining up on the left side. Then Walter Payton followed Perry, who was in motion, into the end zone to give Chicago the lead.

The Bears put 21 points on the board in the first quarter while running just 10 offensive plays and holding the ball for only 6:06.

## Cleveland scores first in second half

In its first possession of the second quarter, Cleveland drove 63 yards in 11 plays to score on a three-yard run by Kevin Mack, pulling the Browns to within seven at 21-14. Kosar completed passes of 20, 14 and 29 yards on the drive.

The Bears stretched their lead to 24-14 just before the end of the half on a 47-yard field goal by Kevin Butler, who earlier had missed field goal attempts of 54 yards and 50 yards. The latter one was blocked.

The Browns took the opening kickoff in the second half and wasted no time in scoring.

Cleveland started at its 28-yard line and moved the ball to Chicago's 14 after Kosar completed a 46-yard pass to Earnest Byner. Mack then ran the ball straight up the middle 14 yards to pull the Browns within three at 24-21.

## Bears come right back

But once again, the Bears answered immediately. Chicago started at its own four-yard line after an illegal block penalty against the Bears was called on the kickoff.

The Bears moved the ball to their own 31-yard line when McMahon completed a 58-yard pass to Suhey. Suhey got a great, unintentional block on the play by Emery Moorehead, who got in the way of a Browns back long enough



Matt Suhey breaks through Cleveland's Eddie Johnson (51) and Anthony Griggs during his fourth-quarter touchdown run in the Bears' 41-31 win Sunday. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

to let Suhey through.

But Suhey wasn't swift enough to outrun all of Cleveland's backs, and he was brought down on the Browns' 11-yard line.

"Those are the plays that make it for you," Ditka said.

McMahon then completed a pass to Payton on the left side for the score, giving Chicago a 10-point lead again.

## Tomczak takes over for McMahon

After Cleveland kicked a field goal to cut Chicago's lead to seven, McMahon moved the Bears to Cleveland's 42-yard line. That's when McMahon hit the ground hard and bruised his shoulder. Mike Tomczak entered the game for the Bears and completed a 31-yard pass to Willie Gault, giving the Bears a first down and goal at Cleveland's seven-yard line.

On the next play Payton gained three yards and Tomczak followed with an incomplete pass intended for Gault.

On third down Tomczak rolled to his right and completed a pass to Suhey, but he was stopped short of the goal line at the one. Butler kicked the field goal, making the score 34-24.

## Onside kick unintentional

Then came the unintentional onside kick by Butler, giving the ball to the Browns at Chicago's 49-yard line.

"That was a miss play," Ditka said. "The ball was supposed to be popped into their territory around the 25. But he missed the ball. He hit the top of the ball instead of the bottom."

Cleveland was able to take advantage of the mistake when Kosar completed passes of 12, 22 and 15 yards for the touchdown to Brian Brennan with 5:44 left and Chicago clinging to a three-point lead.

"I don't see anything the matter with Kosar's mobility," Ditka said. "If he's got bad mobility I'd like to have it."

Tomczak went back to work for Chicago at the Bears' 27-yard line and moved Chicago 72 yards on 10 plays in 3:54 all the way to the end zone. The score came on a strong six-yard run by Suhey with 1:50 left and sent the fans to the exits.

## Tomczak thrives on pressure

"I have to give the kid (Tomczak) credit," Ditka said. "It seems like if nothing is on the line he doesn't respond. But when something's on the line he does."

Tomczak saw the situation on Sunday and the game in Buffalo as completely different.

"They're two different situations," he said. "This one's for keeps, it's for real. And we had to execute. We had

11 guys doing their part. And when you're thrown in a pressure situation like that you have to respond real quickly."

"Michael has done what he's done all fall," Ditka said. "He audibled it a couple times and they were the right ones this week."

Ditka admitted this wasn't his team's best performance, but he's glad to get out of the game with a win.

## Penalties help Chicago

"This was not our best football game but they helped us with some silly penalties," he said. Cleveland was penalized 11 times for 94 yards in the game.

"It was funny," Ditka said. "It was a game but it wasn't a game. All the exciting things happened in the first quarter. After that everyone went into a lull."

"They played hard today. But we can't take anything away from the Cleveland Browns. They played awfully well. We had some missed tackles on defense and missed execution on offense, or we may have had some touchdowns earlier. I have no bad feelings about anything. We played hard as a team."

And if this game was any indication of how the season will go, Bear fans will be in for some exciting, if not unusual, games this season.

Continued Page 6



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# Bears-Browns Official Statistics

## SCORING SUMMARY

Cleveland	7	7	7	10	—	31
Chicago	21	3	7	10	—	41
Browns, 1, Gross, fumble recovery in end zone (Bahr, kick)						
Bears, 1, Gentry, 91-yard kickoff return (Butler, kick)						
Bears, 1, Payton, 2-yard run (Butler, kick)						
Bears, 1, Marshall, 58-yard interception return (Butler, kick)						
Browns, 2, Mack, 3-yard run (Bahr, kick)						
Bears, 2, Butler, 47-yard field goal						
Browns, 3, Mack, 14-yard run (Bahr, kick)						
Bears, 3, Payton, 11-yard pass from McMahon (Butler, kick)						
Browns, 4, Bahr, 22-yard field goal						
Bears, 4, Butler, 19-yard field goal						
Browns, 4, Brennan, 15-yard pass from Kosar (Bahr, kick)						
Bears, 4, Suhey, 6-yard run (Butler, kick)						
Attendance: 66,030, time 3:28						
Weather: Partly sunny, mid 60's, temperature: 59 degrees, wind and direction NW at 13 mph, 39%						

## FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Browns	Bears
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	21	26
By Rushing	6	13
By Passing	12	8
By Penalty	3	5
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	7-14	5-11
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-3	0-0
TOTAL NET YARDS	349	367
Total Off. Plays		
(Inc. times passing)	65	65
Av. Gain per Off. Play	5.4	5.6
NET YARDS RUSHING	69	193
Total Rushing Plays	24	37
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	2.9	5.2
NET YARDS PASSING	280	174
Times Thrown —		
Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	1-9	1-9
Gross Yds. Passing	289	183
PASS ATT. — COMP. —		
HAD INTERCEPTED	40-23-1	27-13-0
Av. Gain Per Pass Play		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	6.8	6.2
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	3-48.7	1-25.0
Had Blocked	0	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	229	231
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	0-0	1-12
No. and Yds. KO Returns	7-135	6-161
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	0-0	1-58
PENALTIES — NO. AND YDS.	11-94	8-39
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	0-0	1-1
TOUCHDOWNS	4	5
Rushing	2	2
Passing	1	1
Returns	1	2



Walter Payton looks for a hole to go through Sunday on his way to gaining 113 yards in the game. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	4-4	5-5
FG MADE — ATT.	1-1	2-4
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:42	31:18

## FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
RUSHING					
Byner	13	18	1.4	6	0
Mack	10	50	5.0	14	2
Fontenot	1	1	1.0	1	0

	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
PASSING							
Kosar	40	23	289	1/9	1	29	1

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				
Slaughter	4	45	29	0
Newsome	1	14	14	0
Brennan	5	71	20	1
Byner	6	94	40	0
Kosar	1	1	1	0
Fontenot	3	28	12	0
Mack	2	14	13	0
Greer	1	22	22	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
None				

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING						
Gossett	3	146	48.7	1	1	52

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS					
*Out of bounds	1				

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
KICKOFF RETURNS				
Fontenot	1	13	13	0
Nicolas	1	13	13	0
McNeil	4	97	26	0
Langhorne	1	12	12	0

	Fum.	Rec.	Yds.
FUMBLES			
Gross	0	0	0

## Chicago Bears

	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
RUSHING					
Payton	22	113	5.1	19	1
Suhey	7	22	3.1	6	1
McMahon	4	34	8.5	21	0
Thomas	1	1	1.0	1	0
Gentry	2	21	10.5	13	0
Sanders	1	2	2.0	2	0

	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
PASSING							
McMahon	20	10	135	1/9	1	58	0
Payton	1	0	0	0/0	0	0	0
Tomczak	6	3	48	0/0	0	31	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				
Suhey	6	85	58	0
Payton	2	20	11	1
Moorehead	1	5	5	0
Gault	3	59	31	0
Wrightman	1	14	14	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
Marshall	1	58	58	1

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING						
Buford	1	25	25.0	0	0	25

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS					
Barnes	1	0	12	12	0
*Touchback	1				
*Out of bounds	1				

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
KICKOFF RETURNS				
Sanders	4	50	23	0
Gentry	2	111	91	1
Gault	1	20	20	0

	Fum.	Rec.	Yds.
FUMBLES			
Hilgenberg	1	0	-28

## DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

### (Unofficial)

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Browns							
Wright	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Harper	3	2	0	0	0	2	0
Gross	2	2	0	0	0	0	1
Dixon	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnifield	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Rockins	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Johnson	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Griggs	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Banks	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Matthews	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Golic	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clancy	5	0	1	9	0	0	0
Camp	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Bears							
Duerson	4	1	0	0	0	1	0
Bell	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Richardson	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fencik	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
Phillips	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Singletary	9	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wilson	3	1	0	0	0	1	0
Marshall	6	1	0	0	1	0	0
Perry	3	1	0	0	0	1	0
McMichael	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Harris	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dent	4	2	1	9	0	0	0
Hampton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Schedule Doesn't Fool Ditka

Coach Mike Ditka won't be fooled by the Bears' apparently weak schedule this year. He said he doesn't believe this year's schedule is as easy as it looks.

"The tough schedule last year ended up being easy, and the easy schedule this year, I'm sure, will end up being tough," he said. "The thing that everyone forgets is that each year every club's goal is to improve. And now, we look at teams like Houston, Cincinnati, Atlanta and Philadelphia, they're all improving football teams. There's no reason to say their record isn't going to be better than a year ago."

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# Marshall A Superstar Now

Buddy Ryan was one of the first to label Wilber Marshall a "future superstar in this league," but he still wouldn't play the linebacker as a rookie in 1984.

Ryan's reluctance to throw young players into the fire was one of the primary differences between the defensive coordinator and Bears coach Mike Ditka.

Other differences will become apparent this week, when Ryan's Eagles come to Soldier Field for a reunion with the Bears.

Ryan expects the crowd to greet him with warm applause, "just like they always have." He does not expect his former players to bow down, however.

Ditka said Marshall and William Perry were the two steadiest players on defense throughout the preseason.



By  
Don  
Pierson

Coincidentally, they were two No. 1 draft choices that Ryan refused to play early in their careers.

Ryan labeled Perry a wasted draft choice after watching him for only two days. Now, Ryan wants to take credit for putting him into the starting lineup at midseason. Ryan disputes the claim that Ditka demanded Perry play.

As good as Marshall is, and as much as Ryan called him "a future superstar," there are those in the Bears' organization who still wonder whether Marshall would have played in 1985 if Al Harris had returned.

## Marshall, Perry important to defense

Ryan liked the way Harris covered tight ends. Ryan said Bears management should have spent the Perry money on Harris and Todd Bell. In retrospect, would the Bears have been as effective on defense in 1985 without Wilber Marshall and William Perry in the lineup? It's doubtful.

Marshall fulfilled many of the roles previously played by both Harris and Bell. In the "46" defense, his unique combination of speed and power made him as much strong safety as linebacker.

Ryan came to rely on Marshall so much that when he had him covering Miami wide receiver Nat Moore during the Bears' only loss, Ditka objected and challenged Ryan to "settle it outside" the Orange Bowl locker room at halftime. It was the only real confrontation the two men had during their four seasons together, according to Ditka.

"Marshall was under the gun every game all year," said defensive lineman Dan Hampton. "He's the one who covers people up and down the field, one on one. If you talk about the success of the '46' defense, obviously you have to have a good defensive line, but the unsung hero on the '46' probably was Wilber."

Marshall covered everyone from Green Bay tight end Paul Coffman to San Francisco running back Roger Craig to Miami's Moore.

"I felt I worked hard last year and I thought people would understand the things I did were special things," said Marshall.

## Marshall overlooked for Pro Bowl

But rival players voted teammates Otis Wilson and Mike Singletary to the Pro Bowl and left Marshall at home.

Wilson and Singletary deserved to go and so did Marshall. They call themselves "The Bermuda Triangle" and their goal is a trip to Hawaii for the next Pro Bowl, intact.

Marshall is pessimistic about the chances because he fears rivals will not allow the Bears to hog the Pro Bowl roster. But the entire backfield of the 1984 San Francisco 49ers made the trip, so there is precedent.

If Marshall's preseason is an indication of his regular season, there will be no stopping him.

"He will make people forget all about Hugh Green," said Hampton.

"Green?" said Marshall. "He's like Lawrence Taylor, the blitz. He's strong and quick. I want to be known as something better than that. I want to be known as a linebacker who can run with any receiver. I want to come in and fill the hole like Mike Singletary."

Against the Indianapolis Colts in the year's third preseason game, Marshall played one half of football that would

alone win him an all-star spot if he could ship the video to voters.

"He was incredible," said Ditka. "Made tackles all over the field."

"You know what kind of game he had? He was everywhere in just a half," said defensive tackle Steve McMichael.

Marshall called it a test.

"I wanted to see how fast this heart could pump."

## Marshall does it all

Marshall made five tackles, knocked down a pass, recovered a fumble, broke a face mask, and had a sack of 13 yards that will make a highlight film.

When the Colts got to the Bears' goal line, it was Marshall who ripped through two blockers, knocking one backward with a stunning blow, and pounced on quarterback Gary Hogeboom, who was rolling out.

"I dedicated the first half to putting everything forth," Marshall said. "I wanted to find out if my body was ready for that kind of punishment. I was very tired and stiff when I finished. I was really beat up. I think I would have been very weak if I had played a whole game."

Marshall is so explosive that he is able to do things that ordinary linebackers can't do. He fooled Detroit quarterback Joe Ferguson last year and also NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle.

Ferguson had no idea anyone could close as fast as Marshall did when Ferguson rolled to his left, opened up to his right, and threw a pass. Marshall hit him like a cobra. No whistle sounded. No penalty flag was thrown. Ferguson was out cold before he hit the ground. A picture caught Ferguson inches off the turf, stretched out straight as a board.

Rozelle fined Marshall \$2,000, apparently because he never had seen anything quite like it before.

After Sunday, Marshall hopes Ryan and everyone else will quit calling him "a future superstar."



Wilber Marshall has his sights set on the pro bowl this year. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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# Unorthodox

Continued From Page 3

**GAME NOTES:** Sunday's meeting was the first between the Browns and Bears since 1980. Cleveland leads the series, 6-3. . . The Bears have not lost to an AFC opponent at home since Cincinnati beat them in overtime in 1980. They've won nine straight since then. . . Sunday was the Browns' first appearance at Soldier Field and their first in Chicago since 1969. . . Cleveland is the first of four teams the Bears face from the AFC Central division this season. . . Both Cleveland coach Marty Schottenheimer and Bears coach Mike Ditka attended the University of Pittsburgh. . . Since the Bears were formed in 1920, the team has a 36-26-4 record in regular season openers. The Bears are 9-5 at Soldier Field on opening day. This year marked the 14th time in the last 16 years the Bears have opened the season at Soldier Field. . . Before Sunday's game the Bears had lost six straight games to AFC Central teams. Chicago's last win was Oct. 28, 1973 against Houston, a 35-14 win. Since the NFL realignment in 1970 the Bears have lost 8 of 12 games against AFC Central teams. . . Bears receivers coach Greg Landry served as the Browns quarterback coach last season. . . A winning season in 1986 would give the Bears three consecutive winning seasons for the first time since 1961-63.

## Next Week's Issue

Next week's issue of Bear Report will have complete coverage of Buddy Ryan's return to Chicago as head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles. Also included will be a preview of the Bears' Monday night game against Green Bay on the Packers' home turf.



The Bears' Steve McMichael puts pressure on Cleveland quarterback Bernie Kosar in Sunday's game in Chicago. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



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# Bruised Shoulder Sidelines McMahon

Quarterback Jim McMahon suffered a bruised shoulder in the third quarter of Sunday's game. X-rays showed there was no break or fracture in the shoulder. But it is not known how long McMahon will be out of action, if at all.

Coach Mike Ditka made it clear that his choosing to put in Mike Tomczak instead of Steve Fuller does not mean Tomczak is the number two quarterback.

"I want to make it clear that under a different circumstance, I might have sent Fuller into the game," he said. "In that situation I just felt I wanted Mike in there instead. Next time it could be Steve."



## Bear Notebook

• **DITKA MENTIONED** last week that he might consider taking Walter Payton out of certain situations this season to save him from getting banged up.

But when asked to comment on it the next day, Ditka didn't want to talk about the subject.

"Are you a troublemaker?" Ditka asked a television reporter who asked him about it. "I'm not even going to answer that question. I'm just going to say maybe. You're trying to cause trouble. I'm not taking him out of any situation."

Then turning the mood to the lighter side Ditka said, "Well, I may take him out of a few situations. So the answer to the question is maybe."

The day before, Ditka said, "Hopefully, we can not wear him down or burn him up any. I don't want to ruin him that way. I want to use him intelligently and use him to highlight our offense."

"Yet I want to be able to take him out of certain situations and not get him beat up. I might change some things

where I ask him to lead block because those are things I don't want him doing."

So will Payton be taken out of certain situations this year?

Let's not cause any trouble and just say maybe.

• **WALTER PAYTON RUSHED** for 113 yards Sunday, giving him 74 100-yard rushing games in his career. The Bears are 51-23 in those games, including a 32-7 record in games at Soldier Field.

Payton also rushed for another touchdown in the game, his 99th career rushing TD. Only two players have rushed for 100 career touchdowns in the NFL, Jim Brown with 106 and John Riggins with 104. Payton also is now only 27 yards shy of 15,000 career rushing yards.

In other career milestones, Matt Suhey caught his 200th career pass on Sunday.

• **DITKA HAD THIS** to say about Cleveland's Ozzie Newsome, who caught just one pass in the game against the Bears Sunday.

"He's probably one of the best tight ends that ever played the game. He does a lot of things very well. I never had a chance to watch that much film on Newsome until now."

"And the more I watch the more impressed I am with him. He doesn't look like he's lost that much speed to me. He runs well and does a good job of blocking for them. He's got a good understanding of what he's supposed to do. I'm impressed with him."

• **AMONG THE NOTABLE** cuts from other teams last week was tight end Paul Coffman from the Packers. Ditka was asked if the Bears would be interested in him, but he said he's still interested in some of his own people.

"Paul Coffman's a quality football player," he said. "He plays the game the way it's supposed to be played."

"Right now we're very set at tight end and we have another tight end that's sitting out in the wings that we still like a lot. It would be kind of foolish to bring someone else in and try to teach them our system."

Ditka did say that there are some linemen he may be interested in.

"There's some people we've looked at," he said. "And we'll make a decision later if there's anyone we want to

bring in and try out. We're interested in a couple people we cut, too. So let's not forget about that. They're quality people, too."

• **DITKA WAS ALMOST PROPHETIC** last week when he stressed the importance of the special teams before the Cleveland game.

"We need to get production on the special teams out of a lot of guys who are backing up," he said. "We get help out of some starters on special teams and we have to continue to do that. It's just too important."

Dennis Gentry returned a kickoff 91 yards for a touchdown against Cleveland, and here's what Ditka said about him before the game.

"Gentry is going to be out on special teams. I don't care if he's the starting wing, he's still going to be out on special teams."

"There's a lot of good things that we've done. And our kids play hard out there. Hopefully, we'll kick off a lot. That's the key."

• **WILLIAM PERRY WAS HIT** in the eye on Thursday in practice and had two scratches on his retina. He wore a patch the rest of the week but was all right by game time on Sunday.

Said Ditka, "Perry got hit in the eye and broke the guy's leg."

Perry had four tackles in Sunday's game.

• **THE NEW INSTANT REPLAY RULE** in the NFL doesn't bother Ditka one way or the other. He's still undecided about its merits.

"It seems like a good idea, and then when it happens it doesn't seem like a good idea," he said. "I just don't know if it's the best thing for the game."

"The percentage of the calls that will be verified will be 95 percent. You're talking about a margin of error of five to 10 percent. And we have million dollar athletes who have a bigger margin of error than five percent. I'm not against it. It may help us some day."

But against the Browns it didn't. Cleveland's first touchdown on the fumble recovery in the end zone in the first quarter against the Bears was verified by the instant replay official, who affirmed the recovery.

That's one call against the Bears, none for.

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# Philadelphia Eagles vs. Chicago Bears



## Philadelphia Eagles Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
2	Michael Horan	P	5-11	190	27	3	Long Beach State
6	Matt Cavanaugh	QB	6-2	212	29	9	Pittsburgh
7	Ron Jaworski	QB	6-2	199	35	13	Youngstown State
8	Paul McFadden	K	5-11	163	24	3	Youngstown State
12	Randall Cunningham	QB	6-4	192	23	2	NV-Las Vegas
13	Chris O'Brien	K	5-10	185	22	R	San Diego State
14	Jeff Weeks	WR	5-11	185	24	R	NW Oklahoma St.
20	Andre Waters	FS/KR	5-11	185	24	3	Cheyney
21	Evan Cooper	CB/PR	5-11	184	24	3	Michigan
22	Brenard Wilson	SS	6-0	185	31	8	Vanderbilt
24	Ray Ellis	SS	6-1	196	27	6	Ohio State
25	Anthony Toney	FB	6-0	227	23	R	Texas A&M
26	Michael Haddix	FB	6-2	227	24	4	Mississippi State
29	Elbert Fowles	CB	5-11	185	25	4	Alcorn State
30	Bobby Howard	RB/KR	6-0	210	22	R	Indiana
33	Mike Waters	FB	6-2	225	24	1	San Diego State
37	Junior Tautala	RB	5-10	198	24	R	Washington State
41	Earnest Jackson	RB	5-9	208	26	4	Texas A&M
42	Keith Byars	RB	6-1	230	22	R	Ohio State
43	Roynell Young	CB	6-1	185	28	7	Alcorn State
45	Charles Crawford	RB	6-2	230	22	R	Oklahoma State
47	Doran Major	SS	5-11	178	25	1	Memphis State
48	Wes Hopkins	FS	6-1	212	24	4	South. Methodist
50	Garry Cobb	LB	6-2	228	29	8	Southern Cal
51	Thomas Carter	LB	6-2	235	25	1	San Diego State
52	Rich Kraynak	LB	6-1	230	26	4	Pittsburgh
53	Dwayne Jiles	LB	6-4	242	24	2	Texas Tech
54	Alonzo Johnson	LB	6-3	217	23	R	Florida
55	Mike Reichenbach	LB	6-2	238	24	3	East Stroudsburg
56	Raymond Morris	LB	5-11	234	25	1	Texas-El Paso
57	Jeff Smith	DE	6-4	250	24	R	Earlham
59	Seth Joyner	LB	6-2	230	21	R	Texas-El Paso
61	Louis Oubre	G	6-4	274	28	4	Oklahoma
62	Nick Haden	C	6-2	270	23	1	Penn State
63	Ron Baker	G	6-4	274	31	9	Oklahoma State
66	Ken Reeves	T	6-5	268	24	2	Texas A&M
67	Gerry Feehery	C	6-2	270	26	4	Syracuse
68	Rich Ackerman	DT	6-4	260	27	4	Memphis State
71	Ken Clarke	DT	6-2	272	29	9	Syracuse
72	Kevin Allen	OL	6-5	284	23	2	Indiana
73	Steve Kenney	G	6-4	274	30	7	Clemson
74	Leonard Mitchell	T	6-7	295	27	6	Houston
75	Jim Gilmore	T	6-5	262	23	R	Ohio State
77	Tom Jelsky	T	6-6	275	25	2	Purdue
78	Matt Darwin	C	6-4	260	23	R	Texas A&M
81	Kenny Jackson	WR	6-0	177	24	3	Penn State
82	Mike Quick	WR	6-2	190	27	5	North Carolina St.
83	Phil Smith	WR	6-3	188	26	3	San Diego State
84	Jonathan Harvey	TE	6-2	225	24	1	Northwestern
85	Ron Johnson	WR	6-3	186	27	2	Long Beach State
88	John Spagnola	TE	6-4	233	29	7	Yale
89	Dave Little	TE	6-2	232	25	3	Middle Tenn.
92	Reggie White	DT	6-5	285	24	2	Tennessee
93	Thomas Strauthers	DE	6-4	264	25	4	Jackson State
94	Byron Darby	DE	6-4	262	26	4	Southern Cal
95	Jody Schulz	LB	6-3	240	26	3	East Carolina
96	Clyde Simmons	DE	6-6	247	22	R	Western Carolina
97	Reggie Singletary	DT/DE	6-3	255	22	R	North Carolina St.
98	Greg Brown	DE	6-5	265	29	6	Kansas State

HEAD COACH: Buddy Ryan

ASSISTANTS: Ted Plumb, Wade Phillips, Dale Haupt, Ken Iman, Jeff Fisher, Dave Atkins, Dan Neal, Doug Scovil

## Sunday, September 14

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## Chicago Bears Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
4	Steve Fuller	QB	6-4	195	29	8	Clemson
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	195	24	2	Georgia
8	Maury Buford	P	6-1	191	26	5	Texas Tech
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	190	27	5	BYU
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	195	24	2	Ohio State
20	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	24	2	Texas A & M
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	203	25	4	Notre Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	CB	5-11	193	24	3	Ohio St.
24	Vestee Jackson	DB	6-0	186	22	R	Washington
25	Todd Bell	S	6-1	205	27	5	Ohio State
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	216	28	7	Penn State
27	Mike Richardson	CB	6-0	188	25	4	Arizona St.
29	Dennis Gentry	RB	5-8	181	27	5	Baylor
33	Calvin Thomas	FB	5-11	245	26	5	Illinois
34	Walter Payton	RB	5-10	202	31	12	Jackson St.
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	210	21	R	Florida
45	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	196	32	11	Yale
48	Reggie Phillips	DB	5-10	170	25	2	SMU
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	228	27	6	Baylor
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	215	23	2	Michigan State
53	Dan Rains	LB	6-1	229	32	3	Cincinnati
55	Otis Wilson	LB	6-2	232	28	7	Louisville
57	Tom Thayer	G/C	6-4	261	24	2	Notre Dame
58	Wilber Marshall	LB	6-1	225	24	3	Florida
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	239	24	3	California
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	269	25	4	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	258	27	6	Iowa
68	Paul Blair	OT	6-4	295	22	R	Oklahoma State
70	Henry Waechter	DT	6-5	275	27	5	Nebraska
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	308	23	2	Clemson
73	Mike Hartenstein	DE	6-3	254	32	12	Penn State
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	271	26	4	Pittsburgh
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	260	28	7	Texas
78	Keith Van Horn	T	6-6	280	28	6	USC
79	Kurt Becker	G	6-5	267	27	5	Michigan
80	Tim Wrightman	TE	6-3	237	26	2	UCLA
82	Ken Margerum	WR	6-0	180	27	5	Stanford
83	Willie Gault	WR	6-1	183	25	4	Tennessee
87	Emery Moorehead	TE	6-2	220	32	10	Colorado
89	Keith Oringo	WR	6-0	180	22	2	McNeese State
90	Al Harris	LB	6-5	253	29	7	Arizona St.
92	Lew Barnes	WR	5-8	163	23	R	Oregon
93	Larry Rubens	C	6-2	262	27	3	Montana State
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	263	25	4	Tenn State
99	Dan Hampton	DT	6-5	267	28	8	Arkansas

HEAD COACH: Mike Ditka

ASSISTANTS: Jim Dooley, Ed Hughes, Steve Kazor, Greg Landry, Jim LaRue, John Levra, Dave McGinnis, Johnny Roland, Dick Stanfel, Vince Tobin.



EAGLES COACH BUDDY RYAN

### Special to the Bear Report

Nobody really expected Buddy Ryan to change his style just because he became a head coach.

When he was the defensive coordinator of the Bears, nobody on the team was safe from his commentaries. Whether it be Mike Ditka, Mike Singletary, Otis Wilson or William Perry, Ryan blasted all of them with his sharp tongue at one time or another during his tenure with Chicago.

Ryan was blasting Eagle players from the moment he laid eyes on them. At the team's first mini-camp, fullback Michael Haddix reported overweight. "He looks like a reject guard from the USFL," Ryan said. When offensive tackle Kevin Allen slept through some training camp practices, Ryan said, "He doesn't exist."

During the first two weeks of training camp, seven players left camp and 10 were treated for dehydration at a nearby hospital.

"It's probably as tough as Dick Vermeil's first camp," said cornerback Herman Edwards, one of the many former Eagle starters who is no longer with the team. "It's a situation where Ryan's trying to weed out guys, see who can hang the toughest."

When the final roster cut came on Labor Day, 14 new players survived. There were 10 new starters in the open-

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# Philadelphia vs. Chicago Lineups

## Eagles Offense

WR	82 Mike Quick, 85 Ron Johnson
LT	77 Tom Jelesky, 66 Ken Reeves
LG	66 Ken Reeves, 75 Jim Gilmore
C	67 Gerry Feehery, 78 Matt Darwin
RG	63 Ron Baker, 62 Nick Haden
RT	74 Leonard Mitchell, 61 Louis Oubre
TE	89 Dave Little, 88 John Spagnola
WR	82 Phil Smith, 81 Kenny Jackson
QB	7 Ron Jaworski, 6 Matt Cavanaugh
RB	45 Charles Crawford, 37 Junior Tautalatasi
FB	25 Anthony Toney, 26 Michael Haddix

## Eagles Defense

LE	94 Byron Darby, 96 Clyde Simmons
LT	71 Ken Clarke, 97 Reggie Singletary
RT	92 Reggie White, 68 Rich Ackerman
RE	98 Greg Brown, 96 Clyde Simmons
LLB	50 Garry Cobb, 51 Thomas Carter
MLB	55 Mike Reichenbach, 52 Rich Kraynak
RLB	54 Alonzo Johnson, 95 Jody Schulz
LCB	43 Roynell Young, 29 Elbert Foules
RCB	21 Evan Cooper, 29 Elbert Foules
SS	20 Andre Waters, 24 Ray Ellis
FS	48 Wes Hopkins, 22 Brenard Wilson

## Eagles Specialists

P	2 Mike Horan
K/KO	8 Paul McFadden, 13 Chris O'Brien
H	7 Ron Jaworski, 6 Matt Cavanaugh
KR	21 Evan Cooper, 30 Bobby Howard
PR	21 Evan Cooper, 83 Phil Smith
PC	89 Dave Little, 67 Gerry Feehery
KC	67 Gerry Feehery, 62 Nick Haden

## Bears Offense

WR	83 Willie Gault, 89 Keith Ortego
LT	74 Jim Covert, 68 Paul Blair
LG	62 Mark Bortz, 79 Kurt Becker
C	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
RG	57 Tom Thayer, 79 Kurt Becker
RT	78 Keith Van Horne, 68 Paul Blair
TE	87 Emery Moorehead, 80 Tim Wrightman
WR	82 Ken Margerum, 29 Dennis Gentry
RB	34 Walter Payton, 20 Tom Sanders
FB	26 Matt Suhey, 33 Calvin Thomas
QB	9 Jim McMahon, 4 Steve Fuller

## Bears Defense

LE	99 Dan Hampton, 73 Mike Hartenstine
LT	76 Steve McMichael, 70 Henry Waechter
RT	72 William Perry, 70 Henry Waechter
RE	95 Richard Dent, 70 Henry Waechter
LLB	55 Otis Wilson, 51 Jim Morrissey
MLB	50 Mike Singletary, 59 Ron Rivera
RLB	58 Wilber Marshall, 53 Dan Rains
LC	27 Mike Richardson, 24 Vestee Jackson
RC	48 Reggie Phillips, 24 Vestee Jackson
SS	22 Dave Duerson, 25 Todd Bell
FS	45 Gary Fencik, 23 Shaun Gayle

## Bears Specialists

PK	6 Kevin Butler
P	8 Maury Buford
PR	92 Lew Barnes, 89 Keith Ortego
KR	83 Willie Gault, 29 Dennis Gentry
KC	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
PC	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
H	4 Steve Fuller, 18 Mike Tomczak

# Eagles

Continued From Page 8

ing day lineup.

"This is going to be a good football team," says starting quarterback Ron Jaworski. "I think it's going to get better as we go along, as we become better prepared and really get into game planning. The coaching staff has looked at a lot of people through the pre-season. They really wanted to get a handle on the caliber of the players we've had here."

### Ryan implements 46 defense

The biggest change Ryan has implemented in Philly is the infamous 46 defense which helped the Bears win Super Bowl XX last January. As expected, the Eagle defense is suffering a lot of growing pains.

In an exhibition game at San Diego, the Chargers passed for 598 yards in a 45-38 victory over the Eagles.

"Our defense was full of holes and we stunk. Just like Swiss cheese," said Ryan.

The Eagles finished the pre-season at 1-3 and allowed 111 points, the most by any Philly team since 1978.

"We're not going to back off," said Ryan. "We're going to keep in the full defensive package. As the year goes on, we'll get better. You can put in one front and one coverage and play the hell out of it by this time. But if you put in 40 coverages and 15 fronts, you're going to have some mess-ups, and we did. One area we really have to improve is the pass rush."

"We'd have a breakdown here, a breakdown there, and then all at once we'd lose our poise. Nobody knows what the hell they're doing."

In addition to all of the points allowed in the pre-season, the Eagle defense surrendered an average of 399 yards per game. The players realize it's going to take a while to get used to the new system.

"It's a high-risk defense," said nose tackle Ken Clarke. "You want to put a lot of pressure on the quarterback, but it puts a lot of pressure on our defense. If you make a mistake, you can give up a big play."

Free safety Wes Hopkins adds, "Any time you gamble and you make a mistake, it's going to be a touchdown for them. If you make that play, it's a big play for yourself."

### Reichenbach will get most responsibility

In the Bears' defense, Singletary was given the most

Continued Next Page



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## After First Game

## Bears Season Statistics

1986 Regular Season

Bears 1-0

RESULTS AND ATTENDANCE (Actual)										RUSHING		No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD		
S 7 (S)	Chicago 41, Cleveland 31				66,030					W Payton	22	113	5.1	19	1			
										J McMahon	4	34	8.5	21	0			
S 14 (S)	Philadelphia at Chicago				12:00					M Suhey	7	22	3.1	6	1			
S 22 (GB)	Chicago at Green Bay				8:00					D Gentry	2	21	10.5	13	0			
S 28 (C)	Chicago at Cincinnati				12:00					T Sanders	1	2	2.0	2	0			
O 5 (S)	Minnesota at Chicago				12:00					C Thomas	1	1	1.0	1	0			
O 12 (H)	Chicago at Houston				12:00													
O 19 (M)	Chicago at Minnesota				12:00													
O 26 (S)	Detroit at Chicago				12:00													
N 3 (S)	L A Rams at Chicago				8:00													
N 9 (TB)	Chicago at Tampa Bay				12:00													
N 16 (A)	Chicago at Atlanta				12:00													
N 23 (S)	Green Bay at Chicago				12:00					BEARS TOTAL	37	193	5.2	21	2			
N 30 (S)	Pittsburgh at Chicago				12:00					Opp. Total	24	69	2.9	14	2			
D 7 (S)	Tampa Bay at Chicago				12:00					RECEIVING								
D 15 (P)	Chicago at Detroit				8:00					M Suhey	6	85	14.2	58	0			
D 21 (D)	Chicago at Dallas				3:00					W Gault	3	59	19.7	31	0			
TEAM STATISTICS					Bears		Opponent		W Payton	2	20	10.0	11	1				
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS					26		21		T Wrightman	1	14	14.0	14	0				
Rushing					13		6		E Moorehead	1	5	5.0	5	0				
Passing					8		12											
Penalty					5		3											
3rd Down: Made/Att.					5- 11		7- 14											
4th Down: Made/Att.					0- 0		1- 3											
TOTAL NET YARDS					367		349											
Avg. Per Game					367.0		349.0											
Total Plays					65		65											
Avg. Per Play					5.6		5.4		BEARS TOTAL	13	183	14.1	58	1				
NET YARDS RUSHING					193		69		Opp. Total	23	289	12.6	40	1				
Avg. Per Game					193.0		69.0		INTERCEPTIONS									
Total Rushes					37		24		No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD					
NET YARDS PASSING					174		280		W Marshall	1	58	58.0	58	1				
Avg. Per Game					174.0		280.0											
Tackled/Yards Lost					1- 9		1- 9											
Gross Yards					183		289											
Attempts/Completions					27- 13		40- 23											
Pct. of Completions					48.1		57.5											
Had Intercepted					0		1											
PUNTS/AVERAGE					1- 25.0		3- 48.7		BEARS TOTAL	1	58	58.0	58	1				
NET PUNTING AVG.					25.0		38.0		Opp. Total	0	0	.0	0	0				
PENALTIES/YARDS					8- 39		11- 94		PUNTING									
FUMBLES/BALL LOST					1- 1		0- 0		No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG	Blk.			
TOUCHDOWNS					5		4		M Buford	1	25	25.0	0	0	25	0		
Rushing					2		2		BEARS TOTAL									
Passing					1		1		Opp. Total	3	146	48.7	1	1	52	0		
Returns					2		1		PUNT RETURNS									
SCORE BY PERIODS					1	2	3	4	OT	Total	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD		
BEARS TOTAL					21	3	7	10	0	41	L Barnes	1	0	12	12.0	12	0	
Opp. Total					7	7	7	10	0	31								
SCORING					TDR	TDP	TDRt	PAT	FG	S	TP							
W Payton					1	1	0	0- 0	0- 0	0	12	BEARS TOTAL						
K Butler					0	0	0	5- 5	2- 4	0	11	Opp. Total	0	0	0	.0	0	0
M Suhey					1	0	0	0- 0	0- 0	0	6	KICKOFF RETURNS						
D Gentry					0	0	1	0- 0	0- 0	0	6	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD		
W Marshall					0	0	1	0- 0	0- 0	0	6	D Gentry	2	111	55.5	91	1	
												T Sanders	4	50	12.5	23	0	
												W Gault	1	20	20.0	20	0	



Walter Payton scored his 99th rushing touchdown of his career Sunday in Chicago's 41-31 win over Cleveland. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

## Eagles

Continued From Page 9

responsibility under Ryan, since he played middle linebacker. With the Eagles, that duty falls to Mike Reichenbach, a three-year veteran out of East Stroudsburg.

"He'll get it all, the whole Mike Singletary package in the 46," Ryan says. "He's smart. He studies hard. He'll be OK."

Reichenbach, who has recorded 150 tackles during his previous two seasons at Philadelphia, doesn't mind the challenge.

"This is a tough defense to block," he says. "You don't know where people are coming from. It puts three big guys in the middle of the line. We're got a good defensive line which can clog up the middle. It makes it easy for linebackers to roam around and make tackles."

Besides Reichenbach, other key members of the Philly defense include right tackle Reggie White, left linebacker Gary Cobb, left cornerback Roynell Young and Hopkins.

While Ryan has tried to shore up the defense, the offense has undergone some reworking orchestrated by former Bear assistant Ted Plumb, the Eagles' assistant head coach in charge of offense. Former Bear players Dan Neal (special teams) and Jeff Fisher (defensive backs) also are assistant coaches under Ryan.

With the help of quarterback coach Doug Scovil (also a former Bear assistant), Plumb has put together a respectable offense which scored the most points (100) of any Eagle team in a pre-season campaign since 1978.

## Jaworski wins quarterback battle

Jaworski, a 13-year veteran out of Youngstown State, won the battle to start at quarterback by completing 21 of 38 passes for 333 yards and three touchdowns during the pre-season. He will be backed up by Matt Cavanaugh and Randall Cunningham.

Two newcomers will be starting in the backfield, 10th-round draft choice Junior Tautalatasi (Washington State) and free agent Mike Waters. Tautalatasi (called Smith by Ryan), had a great pre-season averaging 9.8 yards per carry on 20 attempts. He scored three touchdowns and caught eight passes for 80 yards and a touchdown.

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# Young Bears Can Repeat In Super Bowl

The hardest part about defending a Super Bowl championship is the bull's eye other teams paint on the champion. That's the experience of players who did win back-to-back Super Bowls. "It's like Clint Eastwood. You can make everyone's day," says Paul Warfield, who played on Miami's 1972-73 champions. "Every game you play, you almost have to play a Super Bowl performance."

That was why it bothered Bear coach Mike Ditka to see his players coast into the regular season with two sluggish exhibition games. He lashed out at Richard Dent, Otis Wilson and Dave Duerson, as he had ripped Jim McMa-

down previous teams. They know what they have to overcome.

They're certainly accustomed to having teams shoot for them week after week. When the Bears were undefeated last season, they took on the air of an old Western gunslinger who kept saying, "Next!"

## Bears will be ready this year

They even fanned the flames. Barking at the Cowboys one week, recording a video the next, they gave teams ample reason to hate them, but whenever they put themselves on the spot, they turned it into a spotlight.

"Everybody's saying, 'You'd better be ready 'cause everybody's going to be ready for you,'" Hampton says. "Fine. They've still got to block us."

"We don't care what they think about us. They can hate the commercials and Refrigerator ads all they want, but they've still got to beat us on the line of scrimmage."

The Bears also may be less tempted to rest on their laurels than previous champions. Buddy Ryan's departure to Philadelphia pulled the laurels out from under the defensive players. They have a new challenge, and a new opportunity, to prove the players made the Bears' great defense, not the coach.

"We're not the same team anymore," safety Gary Fencik says. "We can't really be complacent because we've made distinct changes from what was part of our success last year."

The danger in a new defense is that it could take several games before it's hitting on all cylinders. People forget, though, that was true of Ryan's intricate defense every year. After four games last season, the Bears ranked ninth in points allowed and 12th in yards allowed. They finished first in both.

Ordinarily, opponents would have spent the offseason figuring out ways to beat the champions' great defense. Those opponents did scrutinize Ryan's defense, but it wasn't the 1986 Bear defense. That's another edge.

The great defense is something none of the previous six Super Bowl champs had. Nearly all the two-time champs did have dominant defense. Like pitching in baseball, defense is the football cornerstone that keeps games close and losing streaks distant. The Bears aren't likely

to blow fourth-quarter leads four times, as happened last year to San Francisco's defending champions.

## Trick plays won't be needed

Early in training camp, McMahon was asked how he would attack a defense with Dan Hampton and Otis Wilson on one side, Dent and Wilber Marshall on the other, and Singletary, Steve McMichael and William Perry in the middle.

"Call time out," he said. "I don't care where they line up. They're going to be good."

With their defense and overwhelming running game, the Bears don't have to fool teams to beat them. "Not a lot of flash, they just come out and run over your fanny," Steeler coach Chuck Noll said after the Bears' exhibition victory at Pittsburgh.

That's another slump-proof characteristic. Other recent NFL champs have relied more on razzle dazzle, which doesn't always work when you need it. But a team that can obliterate opposing lines can do it week after week.

When someone told Payton his offense was predictable, he said, "So what? They can look for it. The key thing is, they've still got to stop it."

Aside from attitude, the biggest problem for defending champions is that their teams are usually getting old by the time they win a Super Bowl. It takes time to build a champion, and by the time it's built, the first blocks in the foundation are wearing out.

A whole team doesn't have to get old. Just key people. San Francisco showed its age in both lines last year. Before the 49ers, the Redskins and Raiders had quarterbacks topple over the hill. The only potential problems for the Bears are Walter Payton, who looks young as ever as he enters his 12th season, and the defensive line, where Dan Hampton and Steve McMichael are young enough but haven't got a good knee between them.

## Age not a problem for Bears

Overall, the Bears were the youngest team in the NFC last season. Ten starters were born in the sixties. Only Walter Payton, Gary Fencik and Emery Moorehead are over 30, and the latter two have replacements groomed and waiting. Nobody else on the Bears was a teenager

Continued Next Page

By  
Kevin  
Lamb



hon before them, because they are among the team's stars. They're the ones who are supposed to set a good example.

The Bears won last year because they were ready each week. They treated no team lightly. They'll have to do it again.

But there are advantages to being the defending champ. "Now they know they can do it," Ditka says. Confidence goes a long way in football, as long as it doesn't overflow to overconfidence.

Only four of the first 19 Super Bowl winners came back to win the next year. None of the previous six before the Bears did it. Five of those six teams didn't even win their division.

That's all history, though, and history doesn't appear on the Bears' schedule. They know the obstacles that cut

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## Repeat

Continued From Page 11

by the time Paul McCartney left that band he was in before Wings.

They have depth, too. That doesn't always show on Super Bowl winners because most of them are relatively lucky with injuries. Bear starters missed only 23 games last year. They won't be that lucky this year. Cornerback Leslie Frazier and wide receiver Dennis McKinnon are out for the season, already a loss of 32 starter-games.

But the bench has legitimate starters at almost every position. Linebackers Al Harris and Ron Rivera, cornerback Vestee Jackson, safeties Todd Bell and Shaun Gayle, tight end Tim Wrightman, fullback Calvin Thomas and offensive linemen Kurt Becker either have started or would start for many teams.

It would hurt the Bears to lose Payton, McMahon, Dent or middle linebacker Mike Singletary. Their special skills and leadership wouldn't be replaced even by competent backups. But looking simply at players, the Bears have effective Plan Bs behind every starter except wide receiver Willie Gault and center Jay Hilgenberg.

The other serious pitfall for defending champions is the heat of the media microscope. But the Bears thrive on that attention. "If we didn't have controversy, it wouldn't be the Bears," Dave Duerson says.

They bring it on themselves, whether by berating future opponents or arguing with the coach. If things go smoothly for more than one or two weeks, Ditka himself will stir things up. He makes sure his rebels have a common cause.

"They like the recognition and the acclaim they've got-



Mike Singletary helps up the Browns' Earnest Byner after tackling him for a loss Sunday. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

ten," Ditka says. "I think that's why they'll work at it. I think it's a team that wants to do more."

It doesn't mean they'll do it. It only means it's wrong to rule out something just because it hasn't happened for six years. "There shouldn't be any reason you can't win two in a row," Hilgenberg says. "We should be better this year."

The Bears are different from many of their predecessors. Maybe they're different enough.

## Doug's Picks

### BEARS by 10 OVER EAGLES

Ryan's return won't be successful

### JETS by FOUR over PATRIOTS

Home field advantage to New York

### BILLS by THREE over BENGALS

Kelly will get them moving

### BROWNS by ONE over OILERS

Houston will play tough

### LIONS by FOUR over COWBOYS

Detroit at home is an easy pick

### SAINTS by SIX over PACKERS

Green Bay needs more time

### DOLPHINS by 10 over COLTS

Miami will outscore them

### SEAHAWKS by THREE over CHIEFS

Kansas City still struggling

### REDSKINS by FOUR over RAIDERS

Washington is tough this year

### VIKINGS by SIX over BUCCANEERS

No hope in Tampa Bay

### FALCONS by FOUR over CARDINALS

Atlanta off to good start

### CHARGERS by THREE over GIANTS

Can't stop the scoring machine

### 49ERS by FIVE over RAMS

Walsh has them going again

### BRONCOS by 10 over STEELERS

Easy game to pick

Last week's record: 4-9 vs. final line

Actual winners: 7 of 13

NOTE: Doug makes his picks before the opening lines are announced.

## Bears' Schedule

### REGULAR SEASON

BEARS 41, Cleveland 31

Sun., Sept. 14 ..... PHILADELPHIA EAGLES, Noon  
Mon., Sept. 22 ..... at Green Bay Packers, 8 p.m.  
Sun., Sept. 28 ..... at Cincinnati Bengals, Noon  
Sun., Oct. 5 ..... MINNESOTA VIKINGS, Noon  
Sun., Oct. 12 ..... at Houston Oilers, Noon  
Sun., Oct. 19 ..... at Minnesota Vikings, Noon  
Sun., Oct. 26 ..... DETROIT LIONS, Noon  
Mon., Nov. 3 ..... L.A. RAMS, 8 p.m.  
Sun., Nov. 9 ..... at Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Noon  
Sun., Nov. 16 ..... at Atlanta Falcons, Noon  
Sun., Nov. 23 ..... GREEN BAY PACKERS, Noon  
Sun., Nov. 30 ..... PITTSBURGH STEELERS, Noon  
Sun., Dec. 7 ..... TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS, Noon  
Mon., Dec. 15 ..... at Detroit Lions, 8 p.m.  
Sun., Dec. 21 ..... at Dallas Cowboys, 3 p.m.



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# Ditka Won't Worry About Ruffling Feathers

It's refreshing to hear Bear coach Mike Ditka talk about dealing with quarterbacks.

"I think the only way you learn at that position is to be told about it," he said. "And I'm sure there are a lot of people who don't believe that. Somewhere along the line quarterbacks were a commodity that coaches quit criticizing."

"It was, 'keep your hands off him. Don't say anything because you'll get him upset, his feathers will be ruffled, he might do something wrong and he might blame it on you.'"

"No More."

•Bear linebacker Wilber Marshall is still bitter about the \$2,000 fine he received last year for what NFL commis-

By  
Brian  
Hewitt



## NFL Notebook

sioner Pete Rozelle insisted was an illegal hit. But Marshall says he won't let it affect his style.

"I think the commissioner needs to buckle down a little bit on what he considers fining people for on different things," Marshall said. "I see guys coming in and hitting a quarterback late and doing things for which they don't get fined. But the Bears, just because they're out there and they're Super Bowl champs, they want to be harder on us. We're so visible."

•Since meddling owner Robert Irsay took control of the Colts 14 years ago, the team has managed only one preseason with a record better than .500. In Irsay's 14 regular seasons at the helm, the Colts have only won more than five games five times. Prior to his purchasing the team, the Colts had won more than five games 17 straight seasons.

•Perhaps the best incentive for the Bears to repeat as Super Bowl champions this year is they'll get an opportunity to become the first team ever to win three straight Super Bowls.

Four teams have tried and failed to win three straight. Meanwhile, respected NFL minds continue to believe the Bears will dominate the league again this year.

"Last year the Bears had as good a season as any team in the history of football," said former Packer wide receiver Boyd Dowler. "They were as good as the Packer teams that I played on. They were as good as the undefeated Dolphins or the Steeler team that won four Super Bowls."

But, Dowler warned, "that was for one year. One year doesn't make a dynasty."

"The sad thing," said Steeler defensive line coach Jon Kolb, a member of all four Steeler Super Bowl winners, "is if the Bears don't repeat, people will say they aren't as good as we were. And I think they are."

"Barring injury," said player-turned-broadcaster Bob Trumpy, "if the Bears don't repeat, I'll be shocked."

•The term "stashing" in the NFL refers to teams placing players on the injured reserve list when they're not injured.

Stashing gives those teams a chance to keep players with promising futures under their watchful eyes.

The injured reserve list shouldn't be abused. Yet apparently the abuse is worse than ever.

Last week one agent told of a player being ordered to undergo arthroscopic surgery just so the team could stash him on injured reserve. Problem was, there was nothing wrong with the player.

"That kind of thing scares you a little bit," said the agent.

"I haven't heard of anything like that," said one NFL general manager. "But what's to stop a team from telling a player to bend down and not get up (thus feigning a back injury)."

Catch this one: The Broncos recently placed running back Joe Dede on injured reserve. Reporters, unaware of any injury, approached him and asked what was wrong.

Dede reached in his pocket, pulled out a piece of paper, put it back in his pocket and proclaimed, "I've got a shoulder injury."

•Former Chicago Blitz owner Dr. Ted Diethrich, a man for all reasons, is now trying to blame White Sox owner Eddie Einhorn for the demise of the USFL.

"We were inexperienced," Diethrich told the Mesa (Ariz.) Tribune, referring to the 1984 meeting in which Ein-



Wilber Marshall was able to get to Cleveland quarterback Bernie Kosar on this play Sunday at Soldier Field. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

horn convinced USFL owners they should move to the fall.

"Here's a guy we thought was very successful in baseball, had turned the White Sox around, had high visibility and knew about television. Eddie told us we had no leverage if we only dealt with ABC. He said he talked with CBS and they were interested in televising us in the fall."

"I think we were naive. We sat there, and being from different backgrounds and perspectives, we listened to him. We accepted it. That was a mistake."

Diethrich will forever be remembered in sports infamy as the owner who once blamed poor Soldier Field attendance for a Blitz game on Mother's Day.

•Before the Jets cut him recently, second-round draft pick Doug Williams had this to say about Jets defensive end Mark Gastineau:

"They called him a freak of nature and I guess he is because I ain't seen nobody block him yet."

Apparently the Jets coaches didn't see Williams block anybody, period. The offensive tackle from Texas A&M was reportedly a head case. Drafted 22nd in the second

round last spring, he was the highest pick to be cut this year.

Atlanta coach Dan Henning is under fire from critics who want to see him lose his job. But at least Henning has retained his sense of humor.

Asked recently who was going to open the season for the Falcons, Henning replied, "I'm going to open the season. I just hope I close it."

Meanwhile, Henning's son, Dan Henning Jr., is the starting quarterback at the University of Maryland this year. The irony of that is Henning Sr.'s job might not be in jeopardy if he had drafted another Maryland quarterback, Boomer Esiason, in 1984.

•Bear center Jay Hilgenberg has had better summers. A minor groin injury hindered the latter part of his training camp. And the race horse he invested in, Show Me Green, has done no such thing.

"Never again will I invest in anything that eats," Hilgen-

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# Bears Game Full Of Questions

by Wally Gullick  
Special to the Bear Report

Who else but the defending world champs would you expect to pack a game's worth of excitement into one quarter, convincing the 66,000 Soldier Field partisans that there is a way to encore the fantasy script of '85?

What other team could play giveaway on its first offensive series, only to erase the embarrassment 19 seconds later with a 91-yard kickoff return for a touchdown?

Is there any other team in the NFL that sends out two of its offensive mastadons (Steve McMichael and William Perry) on a goal line situation, then sends the celebrated Fridge on rollers from his slot so that he could help escort Walter Payton into the end zone for his 99th career rushing touchdown?

How many other clubs can boast of a finer trio of linebackers? Their case for it was strengthened when Mike Singletary tipped a Bernie Kosar swing pass and Wilber Marshall snatched it with his left hand and outran a pair of Cleveland running backs for a 56-yard touchdown and a 21-7 Bears lead.

All this before the curtain came down on the first quarter, and you thought you'd seen everything after last year's massacre of New England.

As if they still have the renowned chip on their shoulders that they carried with them all the way to Bourbon Street and back last year, the Bears bounced back from the opening minute mistimed snap by Jay Hilgenberg.

## Bears get help in all areas

But to notch victory number one, the Bears needed contributions in all phases of the game.

We've been trying a long time in this organization to build a team that has a good offense, defense and special teams," said Coach Mike Ditka.

"All three squads contributed today and scored. They put pressure on us and we had some problems. But anytime you can beat a team the caliber of Cleveland, I'm pleased."

Just as there were contributions from all three units, there were also flaws by each squad.

At times the offense looked like it was performing with all the precision of an intrasquad scrimmage at Platteville.

Even a 50-yard march saw Jim McMahon forced to run for half the yards when Cleveland bottled up the receivers. The end result: a 47-yard field goal from Kevin Butler and a 24-14 advantage at halftime.

## Defense gives up 358 yards

Defensively, under the new direction of Vince Tobin, the Bears surrendered 358 yards, 289 via the pass.

"I thought Bernie Kosar was darn good. I didn't see anything wrong with his mobility. If he has bad mobility, I'll take it," said Ditka.

Repeatedly Kosar was running for his life, but escaped the ferocious rush with passes to his backs.

"We put pressure on him, but like Dan Marino, he has a very quick release," said middle linebacker Mike Singletary, who was not surprised by Kosar's ability and approach to offsetting the Bear blitzes.

"All week long in films I studied him with a stopwatch and knew he'd be tough because of his quick release. Any time we would give him just a second or so more, we're really making our cornerbacks work overtime. Overall, it was a below-average effort on our part," said Singletary.

Cleveland's easy drives not only raised some eyebrows about the Bears' defense, but it also put the offense back on center stage with an immediate need to produce.

## Special teams dig a hole for offense

The need became exaggerated when the kickoff return team in the record half dug the offense a hole by throwing an illegal block on the return, and Jim McMahon and company found themselves 94 yards from paydirt.

Sensing failure could have allowed the Browns to retain the momentum they had established on the second half opening drive, the Bears engineered an eight-play, 94-yard scoring drive with Walter Payton hauling in an 11-yard pass from McMahon for the score.

It was by far the best drive for McMahon, who completed only five of 14 passes for 32 yards in the first half. In that crucial third period drive, he completed three of three for 75 yards, keyed by a 58-yard play to Matt Suhey, who earned a game ball for his play.

In all it was a game that raised questions about whether the Bears could encore their '85 performance. But it was also an opener that produced its snare of answers, even if the answer to who would win this opening day rumble would not be decided until Matt Suhey scored with 2:01 to go.

## NFL Notebook

Continued From Page 13

berg said. "It's a drain."

Meanwhile, Hilgenberg's brother, Joel, a center for the Saints, has lost his starting job to Steve Korte. Part of Joel's problem is retaining weight. When the Saints moved their summer headquarters to sultry Hammond, La., Joel's problems just got worse."

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Dennis Gentry is congratulated by Neal Anderson after his 91-yard touchdown kickoff return Sunday, his second straight in a regular season game. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



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## Bear Report Letters

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BEAR REPORT welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Due to space limitations, it may be necessary to shorten letters to fill the space available. BEAR REPORT does not necessarily agree with the views stated in the letters we receive. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

### Where Are Southern Cal Fans?

Dear Editor:

I look forward to another super season for the world champions. Mike Singletary showed us in the preseason opener in London that the number one defense in the NFL shows no signs of slacking off. His hit on Mike Renfro is what Bears football is all about.

I was wondering if any of your Southern California readers know where all the Bear fans hang out every Sunday. I missed only four Bears games last season, thanks to national telecasts and bars with satellite TV. This year I want to see every game. Is there a Bear appreciation club in Los Angeles (or the valley) like the one in San Diego? I moved here from Chicago a few years ago and I'm trying to unite with more Bears fans. Where are you guys?

David Tolsky  
Encino, CA

### Remember the Alamo?

Dear Doug,

I hope that yokel from Dallas has another chance to read the Bear Report this season, instead of that rag about the Cowboys.

In typical Texas fashion, they need to pay \$1.50 a week to be told the Cowboys are a bunch of losers. They could have asked any Bear fan and be told the same — for FREE. Next to reading a player profile of crybaby Tony Dorsett, I can think of nothing more boring than hearing about Tom Landry's predictions (yawn).

As far as their Dopesday Defense, I went to the 44-0 game last year in Dallas and saw most of their defense either taking gas

on the sidelines or picking astroturf out of their dental work. Next to the Alamo, I've never seen so many Texans taken out on stretchers.

The Bears will be there on Dec. 21, on their playoff march to the Super Bowl. They'll have their new video out and the Bear fans will be there. You know us in Dallas. We were the ones making mincemeat out of you wimps last year. Walter will give lessons on running, the Fridge will bury Danny White and our punky QB will go deep to the Chocolate Swirl.

As for that hayseed from Lil' D, he'll jump back in his pickup and try to find a safe place to hide. Take that Cowboy toilet paper with you, pal.

Rich Baker  
Chicago, IL

### Bears Shouldn't Lower Themselves

Dear Editor,

I am a Bear fan. I have been for 22 years. I will always be a Bear fan. But after what I saw on national TV against the Cardinals I was really upset.

If the Cards want to play and behave like jerks and cannibals, let them. But the Bears don't have to stoop to their level. That's what a team like that wants people to see. These are supposed to be college graduates.

Someone better let the Fridge know that you can't body slam a quarterback. And someone better let the Cards know not to pick on one player on his home turf.

I can't understand why a professional coach would condone such behavior. Mr. Stalling's team has shown its true colors to everyone. As for Ottis Anderson, I've lost a lot of respect for him. He truly belongs out in some alley.

I just hope the Bears can keep their composure a little better. But if form holds true, they will get the worst end of it from the league office.

Debbie Clark  
Akron, IN

### Perry And Referees Are At Fault

Dear Doug:

I've just viewed the game with St. Louis and I have to admit that I saw a few things that disturb me. The first thing was the play William Perry made on Neil Lomax. Getting to Lomax was good, but what he did after that was unnecessary, senseless and could have ended the career for Neil Lomax. There should have been a penalty on that play. The referee here was as much at fault as William Perry.

I don't want anyone to get the wrong opinion about who I support. I have been and always will be a Chicago Bear fan. I love when the Bears play physical football, after all, that is Bear tradition. You don't get to be called Monsters of The Midway by not

playing physical football. The bottom line on this is getting hurt in the course of a play is one thing, but obviously the play on Lomax was over and Perry had no right to body slam him.

The second thing that disturbed me was the play selection of the defense. Last year the Bear defense played more like an offensive unit. They attacked. This year it appears as though it's, "Let's lay back and let them come to us." With the old Bear look, pressure was being applied on the quarterback on most every play and the running lanes were being filled by blitzing Bears. This put the offense on the alert and caused chaos. Now the quarterback has the time to find the open receiver and the running lanes are more open and vulnerable.

I don't want to dwell on the negative but I believe strength can't be built unless you know your weaknesses. Hurry back Leslie and Dennis, your quality is hard to replace. See you in Tampa on November 9. Last year I couldn't believe the number of Bear fans at the game.

In closing I wish my Bears continued success.

Jon W. Smith  
Venice, FL

### Bears Should Be On TV More

Dear Doug,

The worst part of moving to the Tampa Bay area was having to part with my Bears' season tickets. As you know professional football is not played in Tampa Bay, that is until the Bears come to town.

The arrival of the Bear Report to my mailbox is the highlight of my week, unless we are lucky enough to receive a broadcast of the mighty Bears. Hopefully the networks will realize this is the team people want to see play, as was proved by the Bears single-handedly increasing the NFL television ratings last season. We want to see football the way it was meant to be played — the way the Monsters play it.

William Perry has proven he is not just a novelty this preseason. He's a mean monster that was meant to be a Bear. Officials should waste no time blowing the whistle when a quarterback is in the grasp of the Fridge, or the quarterback may get thrown downfield like a pigskin. Just ask Neil Lomax.

There should be no great disappointment from the defense just because Buddy's gone. This is the same bunch of junkyard dogs who devoured the NFL last season. Frazier will be missed but Vestee Jackson should be able to fill the spot at cornerback. Hopefully Fencik and Bell will be able to give him a crash course on how to hit like a Chicago Bear.

Ditka will keep this team on top and Walter will get his touchdown this year at Super Bowl XXI.

Dan Carlson  
Palm Harbor, FL



William Perry couldn't come up with the ball in an interception attempt Sunday when he lost it in his stomach. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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